

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-16 and 18 are amended. Claims 4 and 17 are cancelled without prejudice. Claim 19 is new.

2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that the proposed changes to claim 1 would overcome the rejection on the merits.

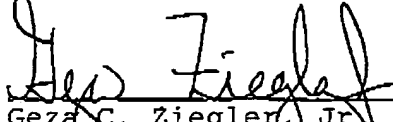
The remainder of the claims are amended to correct the minor/major errors noted by the Examiner, which are primarily related to grammatical and antecedent basis issues.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of \$340 (\$450-\$110) for a two-month extension of time, the fee for a one-month extension having been paid on November 29, 2004, as well as for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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24 Feb 2005
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below.

Date: February 24, 2005

Signature: Margaret Baye